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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/725,417

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Yoshiyuki Ishii

1982-0207P

4769

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7590

07/31/2006

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EXAMINER

TAWFIK, SAMEH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3721

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

6

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/725,417	Applicant(s) ISHII ET AL.	
	Examiner Sameh H. Tawfik	Art Unit 3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,7,18,20-22 and 24-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,7,18,20-22 and 24-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the predetermined time," in line 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the predetermined time" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 18, 20-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshiaki (Japanese Patent No. 09-124200) in view of Takeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,507,134).

Yoshiaki discloses a method for controlling manufacture of a sheet material comprising cutting the sheet material into plurality of sheets of predetermined size (Fig. 4; via web of roller 20 cut into predetermined size); detecting passage of the sheets or the processed products of the

Art Unit: 3721

sheets by sheet detectors (Fig. 4; via detecting means 68, 70, 72, 47, 76, 75, and 78) disposed at entrance and exit sides of each of the processing operations (Fig. 4; via the sensors are locating at different entrance and exits of different stations) or the processing sections where the sheets or the processed products of the sheets enter and exit the processing operations or the processing sections (Figs. 4); and controlling conveyance (Fig. 4; via controlling means) or manufacture of the sheets or the processed products of the sheets based on results of detection by the sheet material detectors (via different sorting trays for different qualities of the cut sheets); wherein each of the processing operations or the processing sections comprises a branch path for sorting the sheets or the processed products of the sheets being conveyed and the sheet detectors are disposed at an entrance side and exit sides of the branch path (Fig. 4; via sorting sheets based on detecting results at branch path; detectors at entrance and exit of diff. stations).

Yoshiaki does not disclose the step of stopping conveyance of the sheet or the processed products. However, Takeda discloses a similar method of controlling manufacture of product comprising the step of stopping conveyance of the sheet or the processed products (Figs. 12-23; via stopping means 52 to control and stop conveyor 30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Yoshiaki's method by having the step of stopping conveyance of the processed products, as suggested by Takeda, in order to provide an efficient control of feeding the products (column 1, line 67 and column 2, line 1).

Alternatively, the examiner takes an official notice that such step of stopping conveyance of products in one section of manufacturing machine is old, well known, and available in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Yoshiaki's method by having the step of sopping conveyance of the processed products, as a matter of engineering design choice, in order to provide an efficient control of feeding the products.

Regarding claim 7: wherein the predetermined operation comprises sorting the sheets (Fig. 4; via 48 and 50).

Regarding claim 18: wherein the operation section includes a sorting section for sorting the sheets and conveying and collecting the sheets into different collection sections (Fig. 4; via sorting trays 48 and 50); the sorting section including a sheet conveyance path with at least one branch gate (via gates 42, 44, and 47); the at least one branch gate operating so as to direct a sheet conveyed thereto to one of different paths therefrom; sheet detectors are disposed at entrance and exit sides of the at least one branch gate for detecting a sheet that passes through or has passed through the at least one branch gate (Fig. 4); and the controlling step includes determining a conveyance status of the sheet based on results of detection by the sheet detectors (Fig. 4; via controlling means).

Regarding claim 20: wherein the conveyance status of a sheet is determined based on checking at least one of the results of detection by the sheet detectors disposed at the entrance and exit sides of the branch gate (via production managing device 180).

Regarding claim 21: wherein one of the collection sections is disposed together with a counter for counting a number of the sheets collected at the respective collection section at each of terminal ends of the branch paths (Fig. 4; note that it is inherent such managing device is capable of counting the sheets).

Regarding claim 22: wherein at least one of the paths branched from the at least one branch gate directs the sheet toward a next branch gate (Fig. 4; via gate 42 directs sheets to gate 44).

Regarding claim 24: wherein the sheet is produced by cutting to a predetermined length a long material wound in a roll (Fig. 4; via out or roller 20); calculating a number of produced sheets based on a length of the material drawn out from the roll, and comparing a number of the sheets collected in the collection sections with the calculated number of produced sheets (Fig. 4; note that such calculations and comparison is inherent for processor or managing device 180).

Regarding claim 25: wherein the comparison between the numbers of the sheets is performed when conveyance of the sheets is stopped (Fig. 4; via some of the sheets sorted on 48 and 50 while means 180 still computing for other sheets).

Regarding claim 26: wherein at least one of wrapping and packaging the collected sheets is carried out to provide wrapped and/or packaged sheets (Fig. 4; via 60); further comprising the step of counting a number of sorted sheets and the numbers of at least one of the wrapped and packaged sheets (Fig. 4; note that it is inherent such computing/processor means 180 capable for counting the wrapped/package sheets 60; via through sensor 78).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sameh H. Tawfik whose telephone number is 571-272-4470. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Art Unit: 3721

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Sameh H. Tawfik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sameh', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

ST.